

CONCORD HISTORICAL COMMISSION
Public Meeting Minutes
September 9, 2021, 7:00 P.M.
Virtual Meeting

Pursuant to notice duly filed with the Town Clerk's office, the Town of Concord Historical Commission held a virtual public meeting on Thursday, September 9, 2021 at 7:00 P.M. using the Zoom meeting platform. Meeting ID: 875 2288 4192 Password: 232103

Commission Members Present: Melissa Saalfeld, Nancy Nelson, Alan Bogosian
Staff: Heather Gill, Senior Planner
Others: Greg Higgins, Mark Gailus, Carissa Demore, Linda Escobedo

Ms. Saalfeld called the meeting to order at 7:03 P.M. by a roll call vote.

99 Sudbury Road Preservation Restriction

Carissa Demore from Historic New England stated that she is seeking the Historical Commission's support for the Preservation Restriction for the Scotchford Wheeler House, located at 99 Sudbury Road. Ms. Demore explained that the Commission's support is needed in order to make the restriction perpetual. Ms. Demore provided a brief history of the house, the restriction process, and showed the Commission photographs of the interior of the house. The Commission agreed that this was terrific. Ms. Nelson moved to support the perpetually binding Preservation Restriction for the Scotchford-Wheeler House at 99 Sudbury Road. Mr. Bogosian seconded the motion and all others voted in favor. The motion passed (3-0) by a roll call vote.

Center and Main Street Names

Greg Higgins appeared before the Commission to present the proposed street names for the Center and Main Street subdivision. Mr. Higgins reviewed the history of the proposed names. Ms. Saalfeld stated that she liked Carter and Sullivan because of their connection to West Concord. Ms. Saalfeld stated that she would not be in favor of Fowler, because the library is already named after Fowler. The Commission agreed that they would like Road A to be Carter and Road B to be Sullivan.

Discussion: Rte. 2A Improvements – MDOT 75% Plans

The Commission reviewed the response from Kurt Jergensen re. their letter they sent to MassDOT. Ms. Nelson listed off specific concerns she has about the project including questioning how much the road is going to be widened and where, crosswalks, no connecting paths, vertical granite curbing, increase in signage, and pavement markings. The Commission discussed how this was a battlefield and some of the British soldiers were buried near where they fell. Ms. Nelson suggested that the Commission asks to be a consulting party to the project, which will give the Commission more of a voice. Ms. Saalfeld stated that there are specific qualifications as an All America Road including that the "road is a destination itself."

Mark Gailus, of 62 Prescott Road, stated that he is concerned about the negative impact on the gateway into Concord this project will have.

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The Commission discussed drafting a response letter that states their support of the Minute Man National Park's letter. The Commission authorized Ms. Saalfeld and staff to draft and send the response letter.

Historic House Marker Application

Mr. Bogosian stated that he cannot find anything to support that the house was constructed in 1856. Ms. Bogosian moved to approve the historic house marker for 70 Elm Street to read "William F. Hurd c. 1880). Ms. Nelson seconded the motion and all others voted in favor. The motion passed (3-0) by a roll call vote.

Demolition Review Bylaw

Ms. Saalfeld explained that she sent out an email on the masshistpres listserve and received responses from ten communities. The Commission reviewed the town's definitions for partial demolition and discussed how they varied significantly. The Commission stated they would like to review this further at the next meeting, and decide how detailed they would like to get.

Historic Issues Coffee

The Commission discussed the list of invitees, zoom v. in-person, and when to host it. The Commission decided to host it in October, so Rte 2A can be an agenda item for discussion.

Updates and Liaison Reports

Mr. Bogosian stated that the HDC will be reviewing the plans for 615 Lowell Road a next Thursday's meeting. Ms. Nelson reviewed the public works latest meeting. Ms. Saalfeld reviewed the Planning Board's latest meeting, and explained that they need to submit a summary sheet for the Envision Concord update meeting.

Minutes

The Commission asked that the minutes are placed on the next agenda.

Ms. Nelson moved to adjourn the meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:15 P.M.

Minutes Approved: 11/10/2021

Respectfully submitted by:
Heather Gill
Senior Planner